

First Mennonite Church
Church Board Meeting Minutes
November 22, 2009

Church Board Chair, John Penner, called the meeting to order. Pastor Weldon then lit the lamp to symbolize the presence of God. Dorothy Zimmerman led the group in devotions based on Ephesians 4:29 and prayer.

Board members present: John Penner, Pastor Weldon Schloneger, Leroy Janzen, Dorothy Zimmerman, Kathy Casey, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Gail Cross, and Sharon Janzen.

Celebrating Mission

- Minutes of the October and November 4 meetings were reviewed. Approved as offered.

Missions, Peace and Service Council

- Gail reported that Jerry Reimer's green building idea is being followed up on.
- Gail then gave the Board an overview of the Guarderia Samuelito construction project going on now in Bolivia. To assist with this project the MPS Council has designed a fundraiser. On Saturday, December 12, Dick Penner will be grilling Windsor Loins here at church from 3-5pm. The loins will be approx. 11 oz each and will come packaged six per bag. Packages will be offered to the congregations of FMC and BMC on a free will donation basis. Order forms will be in this week's bulletin. All orders must be received by 12/7. The center being constructed will be used as a day care facility.
- The MPS Council plans to continue meeting on the same schedule in 2010 (3rd Sunday of the month, six times per year.)

Worship Council

- Kathy Casey reported that the Church has been decorated for Christmas and all Advent planning is done.

Education Council

- Vicki Hinz-Ensz reported that the Christmas Program will be held during service on Sunday, December 20, 2009. Preparations for the program are progressing.
- Vicki reported that there will be no Catechism Class on December 20 or 27.
- Vicki asked the Board for ideas of what to do during Sunday School on the 27th. A group event downstairs may be planned for that day.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Weldon reported that Catechism Class is going along very well. He reported that the students' parents are already actively planning Baptism Sunday. Parents have decided to hold a joint event after Baptism in the Fellowship Hall.
- Pastor Weldon reported that FMC will present a pitcher and Baptismal Certificate to each student that day as has been the tradition for several years. He also informed the Board that BMC will present the students with a Hymnal with their selected verse inside, as is the tradition at BMC.
- Pastor then spoke about the Advent Season. Florence planned the Advent season this year and will be leading part of the service each week. He is grateful for her assistance in this.

Church Board

- **Building Committee**
 - No report available at this time

➤ **Goossen Building**

- Dorothy reported that the Advisory Board has been presented with a check from Louis Goossen for \$ 20507.68 from the harvest of donation plot located near Flowing Springs. Dorothy stated the Advisory Board will be sending thank you letters to all of the donors involved in that project.
- Dorothy reported that the Advisory Board has made progress on the 429 Factory. The Board is at a point where they are beginning to discuss staffing. Dorothy reported that the feel of the Board is that a Youth Minister is the proper direction.
- Dorothy also discussed that the Board will start looking to area local churches for more fundraising opportunities. She stated that in correspondence with local churches there will be a reminder for wills and bequests.
- In addition to fundraising from local churches, Christine Lyons, MAPS Director and Advisory Board member has options for matching funds grants.
- Dorothy stated that the Advisory Board is targeting this spring to be up and running.

➤ **Offering Schedule – 2010**

- The Board compiled the offering schedule for the upcoming year. This schedule will be available at the next Board meeting or in the 2010 Directory.

➤ **Baptism Sunday**

- Pastor Weldon asked for the Board's input on a potluck vs. catered meal for after the service. The Board agreed that the parents should be asked to decide on a caterer, what they would like served and a rough head count of persons attending. That information should be given to Mary to make the arrangements.
- The Board also decided that service on January 10 should begin at 9:30am. This will allow enough time for Baptism and Communion during Worship and then visiting before the luncheon.

➤ **Other Calendar Dates**

- Annual Study Series will be held January 31, February 1 & 2, 2010.
- Pre-Easter Series will be held March 28-30, 2010.

➤ **Annual Business Meeting Agenda**

- Slate Election
- Deacon Election
- Budget Proposal
- Church Board recommendation to add the Building Committee Chair to the Church Board.

➤ **Shepherd Group Discussion**

- The 2010-2011 Shepherd Group shuffle has taken place. However, the task of finding Shepherds for each group seems to be a daunting task this time around. The Board agreed to preserve to find Shepherds this time, but to discuss the future/continuation of Shepherd Groups with the congregation before the shuffle would take place again in 2011.

➤ **Copyright License**

- The Church has discontinued purchasing a copyright license for hymns in the recent past. However, with the upcoming transition it was thought that perhaps it should be purchased again, just in case. The Board agreed that this was a good idea. The purchase of the license will be added to the 2010 Worship Council Budget.

➤ **Transportation Coordinator**

- The Board discussed that the duty of this person is not necessarily to drive those in need of a ride, but to help coordinate with those willing to drive. A list of persons willing to drive should be compiled and used by the Transportation Coordinator.
- The Board discussed candidates for this position. John will be contacting Letha Hamm to see if she would be interested in this position.

➤ **Church Handbook**

- The Board discussed the Church Handbook. It was agreed that in the coming year each committee should work on their job/committee description, eliminate unnecessary items, and elaborate on duties that are performed.

➤ **MMA Advocate Report.**

- John Penner shared with the Board the changes to the MMA Sharing Fund Grant. It was agreed that this information should be passed on to the congregation as a whole. It will appear in the December newsletter.

➤ **Position Review**

- Mary and Weldon presented information to the Board regarding Mary's recent performance review with Weldon. Importance of the position during the upcoming transition, areas of needed improvement and where Mary could be more fully utilized were highlighted. After presentation of this information, Mary exited the meeting. After some discussion, the Board decided Mary will turn in a timesheet every two weeks instead of the current method used. In addition, the Board decided to increase Mary's available vacation time each year from 30 hours to 45 hours per year.

Celebrating God's Provision – Central Treasurer's Report

- Sharon presented the account balances and register through October 31. The general fund balance as of 10/31/09 was \$ 19005.78.

Celebrating New Mission Possibilities

- Nothing new at this time

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer and a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Baumfalk